



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

13 MARCH 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Menlo Park – Facebook, Twitter Remove Russia-Linked Accounts in Ghana Targeting US

(U) Facebook told reporters that the network, which it removed from Facebook and Instagram for engaging in foreign interference, was in the early stages of building audiences and was operated by local nationals, some wittingly and some unwittingly, on behalf of individuals in Russia. Facebook said its investigation found links to an NGO in Ghana called EBLA, or “Eliminating Barriers to the Liberation of Africa,” and individuals associated with past activity by Russia’s Internet Research Agency (IRA), a St Petersburg-based “troll factory” that US intelligence officials say aimed to interfere in the US presidential election in 2016.

SOURCE: 12 March 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Sacramento – California Guidance against Gatherings Likely to be Extended

(U) Governor Gavin Newsom said yesterday that sweeping guidelines for Californians to avoid large gatherings to slow the spread of COVID-19 will likely extend past March. The guidance is for sporting events and concerts, but also includes smaller social gatherings in places where people can't remain at least 6-feet apart.

SOURCE: 12 March 2020, [KCRA](#)

(U) San Diego – Marine in Miramar Tests Positive for Coronavirus

(U) The first US Marine assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, has tested positive for the coronavirus, Marine officials confirmed yesterday. The Marine is part of the 3rd Marine Air Wing, and is at least the second Marine to test positive for the rapidly spreading virus. The positive diagnosis has been attributed to the Marine’s personal leave to Washington State, where a large cluster of the outbreak persists. Miramar, California, was one of four bases the US has been using to quarantine civilians exposed to the deadly virus after confirmed cases on cruise ships.

SOURCE: 12 March 2020, [Marine Corps Times](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – Agents Seize Drugs and Arrest Seven

(U) Tucson – Tucson Sector agents conducted an immigration related traffic stop on a pickup truck driving on Arivaca-Sasabe Highway on 10 March at approximately 5pm. The driver and passenger of the truck, both US citizens, were found smuggling seven Mexican nationals illegally present in the United States. During the arrest, the vehicle’s passenger was discovered to have a variety of narcotics, including personal use amounts of heroin, methamphetamine and Oxycodone, as well as several syringes.

SOURCE: 12 March 2020, [CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Universities across the US Canceling In-Person Classes Due To Coronavirus

(U) Washington – Universities from California to New York have closed campus classrooms as the novel

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coronavirus has transformed into a pandemic. The cancellations were initially focused in states and areas hardest hit by the virus, including the Seattle area, California and New York. In some cases, online instruction is being offered for a limited period, or through the semester. Some schools are telling students to not return to campus for 14-days after their return, depending on the laws in their state.

SOURCE: 12 March 2020, [CNN](#)

(U) Florida – Plane Passenger Diagnosed with Coronavirus after Landing in Florida

(U) Palm Beach – A passenger on a flight from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City to Palm Beach, Florida, has been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus. The crew and 114 passengers were stuck on the tarmac for hours as health officials spoke to everyone on board. "At this time passengers in the vicinity of the positive patient were advised of monitoring procedures," Palm Beach County Fire Rescue said in a statement. "The rest of the passengers were released to go home" and given directions to call the health department with any medical concerns.

SOURCE: 12 March 2020, [ABC News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) El Salvador – President Declares a National Quarantine

(U) San Salvador – President Nayib Bukele banned visitors from high-risk countries – not just China, South Korea and Iran, but also France and Spain, among others. He also announced a national quarantine, shutting schools for three weeks, banning gatherings of more than 500 people, barring foreigners from entering the country and imposing a 30-day quarantine on Salvadorans entering from abroad.

SOURCE: 12 March 2020, [Washington Post](#)

(U) Iraq – US Launches Strikes on Group that Attacked Coalition Base

(U) Baghdad – The US launched airstrikes on weapons storage facilities in Iraq in retaliation for a rocket attack that killed two US service members and a British soldier, the Defense Department said yesterday. The strikes, which the Pentagon said targeted five facilities, some of which it said housed weapons used to target US and coalition forces, "were defensive, proportional, and in direct response to the threat posed by Iranian-backed Shia militia groups."

SOURCE: 12 March 2020, [NBC News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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